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This man threw this dog out of a third-floor window because he was angry with it – Full story Page 3


GOING IT ALONE

Primary school is granted academy status

By Oliver Evans

THE head of one of the first primary schools in Oxfordshire to get academy status says the move is vital in the face of Government cuts.

Hanwell Fields Community School head Jane Haggitt said last week's change gave it greater financial independence from cash-strapped council chiefs.

The school, in Rotary Way, previously had to buy services like IT from Oxfordshire County Council, the local authority.

But academy status – allowed under flagship Government reforms – means it had more control over spending, staffing and the curriculum.

It means major decisions around finance and legal matters have passed to the national United Learning Trust charity.

Mrs Haggitt said: "The local authority has a diverse agenda at the moment with cuts from Government. Lots of resources we may have accessed in the past may have gone and more will go in the future."

"Our move is aimed at putting Hanwell Fields into a safe pair of hands."

The county council is having to make £119m of cuts over four years from its £1bn-a-year budget due to a drop in cash support from Government.

Mrs Haggitt said academy status would give the school more independence and "choice about how money was spent".

The change was allowed because the school has been judged "outstanding" by Ofsted inspectors.

Mrs Haggitt said: "We are looking to the future and reorganising our school so education is the main focus."

The trust was founded by the Church of

England, yet says all are welcome at its schools. Its president is Lord Carey, a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Mrs Haggitt said that the governing body would run alongside the trust in the management of the school.

This year, 71 per cent of pupils at Hanwell Fields reached the nationally-expected level in English and maths, compared to 74 per cent in England.

County council cabinet member for schools improvement Melinda Tilley said: "This is an excellent school, so I think it is a good move. The more we can do to help, we will."

Secondaries King Alfred's School in Wantage and Wallingford School converted to academy status last year.

Other local schools looking to convert include: Chipping Norton School, Banbury School and Dashwood Primary School.



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InBRIEF**Debate over future vision**

■ A MASTERPLAN on what major projects will be built in Cherwell over the next two decades will be discussed next week. The core strategy sets out what the district council will seek to give planning permission for, including thousands of homes. This is seen as vital to stop plans on sites that councillors say are unsuitable – such as 150 homes by Salt Way, Banbury. Adrian Colwell, Cherwell's strategic planning and economy chief, will give an update to the overview and scrutiny committee at the council's Bodicote HQ on Tuesday at 6.30pm.

Star's visit

■ COMMONWEALTH Games squash gold medallist Sue Wright is to visit Banbury's Spiceball Leisure Centre to talk about her career. People who attend the March 17 event – aimed at getting people involved in sport – will get a free Adidas polo shirt and bag. Details: email tom.gubbins@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call 01295 221720.

Business view

■ BUSINESS owners are being encouraged to fill in a survey to let decision-makers know about the challenges they face. Oxfordshire's Local Enterprise Partnership wants small and medium-sized businesses to complete the online survey at tinyurl.com/6rmtchh

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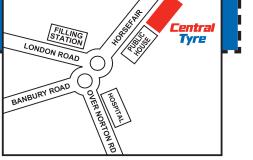
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Out-of-town store plan rejected

PLANS for a Sainsbury's supermarket in Chipping Norton have been turned down.

West Oxfordshire District Council refused permission for a giant new supermarket on the former Parker Knoll factory site in London Road, on Monday.

Officers had recommended the application be refused because of the impact on traffic, and the "viability and

vitality" of the town centre. Objectors had also complained the new store would increase traffic and affect smaller businesses.

Sainsbury's, which said it would have provided greater food choice and created about 200 jobs, said it was now considering its future options.

A spokesman said: "We are obviously disappointed as we are aware that there is public support for our proposals."

Appeal after town park attack

FOUR men attacked another man in a park in Banbury, leaving him lying injured and unconscious.

Thames Valley Police is appealing for information following the assault at 3.15am on Sunday in People's Park.

The 24-year-old victim was walking through the park when he was approached and assaulted. The gang left him with a broken hand and serious bruising to his head and body.

The attackers are all described as white and aged between 20 and 25.

PC Siobon Cook said: "This was an unprovoked attack that has left the victim with some nasty injuries.

"I would like to speak to anyone who may have been in the People's Park and saw any of these men."

Contact PC Cook on the 24-hour police enquiry line 101 or the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

Defibrillator to be kept at academy for possible emergencies**Family's donation: The chance of saving a life**

STAFF at North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury have been trained to save lives, using a device donated in memory of a late youngster.

Karen Bott donated the defibrillator after losing her 21-year-old son, James, in 2010 from an undiagnosed heart arrhythmia.

She said: "It was bittersweet. They can now use a piece of life-saving equipment – but the reason I was there was because had I lost my son."

Fundraising events have paid for the devices – which re-start stopped hearts – at Banbury School and Blessed George Napier Catholic School.

The family are currently raising cash to place a device at Warriner School.

Mrs Bott, of Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, said: "It could save a child's or a teacher's life."

The donations have been made with the support of cardiac charity SADS UK.

Spokesman Anne Jolly said: "If a person suffers a sudden cardiac arrest, having this lifesaving equipment on the premises will give them the very best chance of survival."

Head of sixth form Roy Thomas said: "I feel that it is very important that all schools are provided with a defibrillator and receive training on how to use one."



Joel Hoyte, left, from Direct First Aid, is pictured with Roy Thomas, who is head of North Oxfordshire Academy's Sixth Form

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■ Jail term follows admission of causing suffering to an animal

Drunken neighbour, who threw pet out of window

By Ellie Simmonds

DRUNKEN Oliver Thomas tossed a neighbour's pet dog out of a third-floor window because he was angry with it, magistrates heard on Friday.

The 28-year-old of Middleton Road, Banbury, who hit the headlines after his arrest when a prison van travelled 96 miles to transport



ABOVE:
Oliver
Thomas

RIGHT:
Freddie, the
Bichon Frise
dog

him just 60 yards, was last night starting an 18-week prison sentence for causing an animal's death.

The court heard that Thomas threw the pet out of the window and it landed, 50 feet below, on the concrete stairs of the basement property.

Freddie, a white fluffy Bichon Frise breed, died in agony while being cradled in his owner's arms.

TSarbit Bisla, prosecuting for the RSPCA at Banbury Magistrates' Court, told how Nada Mansall had owned Freddie for five years.

On September 16 last year she was having a drink with a friend when Thomas turned up at her third-floor flat in Middleton Road, Banbury.

Mr Bisla said: "Ten minutes after he arrived and, without any warning, the defendant stood up and grabbed the dog, Freddie, by the scruff of the neck. He strolled over to the back window which was wide open.

"Initially he held Freddie out the window. About two seconds went by and then he

deliberately dropped the dog from the third floor."

Thomas, who initially claimed the dog had slipped from the window, said he had thrown Freddie out the window after getting angry with it.

At the time he was on bail to the Crown court for an attempted robbery and was also the subject of a conditional discharge for shoplifting.

Mr Bisla said: "Nada Mansall has no idea what possessed the defendant and cannot explain why he did it."

When he first appeared before magistrates last year in connection with the incident, a prison van travelled from Southampton to Banbury because it would "infringe his human rights" if he was made to walk the 60 yards from the police cells.

Thomas admitted a single charge of causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal.

Charlotte Moss, defending, said that a lot of alcohol was consumed by Thomas on the day of the incident.

She said: "My instructions are that he doesn't really recall the day or events in question.

"He is remorseful and, looking back, cannot quite believe what happened."

Presiding magistrate Paul Morley jailed Thomas for 18 weeks. He also disqualified him from owning or keeping an animal for life and ordered him to pay £300 costs.



The building in Middleton Road, from which the dog was thrown

InBRIEF

Debate over canal guard

■ PART of the Oxford Canal on the Cherwell and Northamptonshire border could get extra protection under new plans. Cherwell District Council is consulting on giving part of the canal conservation area status, putting in extra tests if development is proposed. A consultation runs until Friday, March 16. Exhibitions will be held at Banbury Town Hall today and Upper Heyford Village Hall on Friday, March 16. All will be from 3.30pm to 6.30pm and a public meeting will be held at each from 7pm to 8.30pm. Details: tinyurl.com/79olcm3 or call 01295 221846.

Teens flock to career night

■ ABOUT 140 youngsters attended an opening evening about careers in engineering at a Banbury firm. Norbar Torque Tools said last week's event at its Beaumont Road site was its biggest yet. Managing director Neill Brodrey said: "We are passionate about engineering and we believe we can provide a showcase of its challenges and opportunities."

Shed raider to be sentenced

■ A MAN who burgled two garden sheds will be sentenced later this month. Scott Townsend appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Monday having earlier admitted two burglaries in Banbury that took place on February 24. The 32-year-old broke into sheds in Nursery Drive and Cope Road but was spooked both times and failed to steal anything. Townsend, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody to be sentenced on March 26.

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InBRIEF**Arrest after 'road-rage'**

■ A ROAD-rage attack is being investigated by police. A 27-year-old man was pulled out of his Honda Civic car at a set of traffic lights and punched several times. The attacker, who drove a blue Subaru, was sitting behind the wheel at the lights in Warwick Road, Banbury, before sounding his horn and then confronting the man. The incident took place at about 5pm on Sunday of last week. A 27-year-old man from Banbury has been arrested on suspicion of assault and has been bailed until March 27.

Drugs case

■ IN the Scales of Justice section of last Thursday's *Banbury Cake* we said Leon Drummond had been fined after admitting possessing Class-A drug heroin. The Class-A drug was in fact cocaine. We apologise for the error and are happy to set the record straight.

Hospice event

■ KATHARINE House Hospice's annual sale will take place at The Institute, Adderbury, on Saturday. The event will be staged between 11am and 2pm and will feature crafts, bric-a-brac, books, refreshments and toys.

Consultation over village's conservation area review

CHERWELL District Council has produced a list of buildings it is planning to include in Deddington's conservation area.

It is the first time in 15 years the village's conservation area has been reviewed.

A consultation on the document runs until Friday, March 16. Michael Gibbard, Cherwell lead member for planning, said: "Deddington Conservation Area was first designated in 1988 and covers the main core of the historic village.

"Now the council want to hear views on the content of the draft appraisal, the buildings proposed for inclusion on the local list and additional protection for the street scene."

Details, see cherwell.gov.uk/conservation

50 jobs offered in big Army recruitment drive

By Oliver Evans

UP to 50 jobs are being offered at Banbury's Territorial Army base as part of a major recruitment drive for the reserves.

Part time chefs, medics, mechanics, and IT specialists are being sought for the Signal Squadron, based at Oxford Road.

The squadron provides communications support for frontline troops and members are posted to Afghanistan in small numbers when required.

The roles will be shared with the squadron's Bletchley base, depending on where those who apply live.

A recruitment evening will be held on Tuesday at the centre.

It is part of a national campaign to

increase the number of reserves in the face of cuts to the regular army.

Recruits get the same hourly pay as their equivalent role in the regular army.

Major Rick Fletcher, area army recruiting officer for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, said: "The TA offers the best of both worlds to people who find the idea of army life appealing, and the leadership skills gained are highly valued by civilian employers, and being part of the TA can offer a source of income too."

"The TA provides the opportunity to go on operations, to take part in adventurous training and to learn new skills that can also be used in civilian life."

For information call the centre on 01295 262178 or visit serfca.org.



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■ Patients' details 'will remain secure'

Promise over new medical records system

By Amanda Williams

HEALTH bosses have promised patients that a new electronic records system will be secure.

Oxfordshire's patient files are to be put on a national electronic database called the Summary Care Record. The NHS says it will improve care because of quicker access in an emergency.

At the moment records are kept in all the places where patients receive care – from GPs' surgeries to hospitals, which means the information can only be shared by letter, email, fax or phone.

A local version of the records system will also be introduced.

The Oxfordshire Care Summary will provide more detailed information than the national Summary Care Record and will only be available to local healthcare professionals involved in a patient's treatment in Oxfordshire.

Dr Andy Chivers, clinical lead for the Oxfordshire Care Summary project, said: "The Oxfordshire Care Summary will improve patient care, especially in more complex cases where the GP's notes may hold vital information not otherwise available, such as blood-test results or drug side effects."

"Control and monitoring of access to the data will be taken very seriously, so we can assure Oxfordshire residents that their information is only viewed when necessary for medical care."

Every patient registered at a GP practice in Oxfordshire and aged 16



Dr Stephen Richards



Dr Andy Chivers

years and over will receive a letter next month. It will explain what the care records are, their benefits, and that patients need to make a choice about whether they have these records or not.

Patients have the right to opt out, if they wish, and can do so easily by completing a freepost opt-out form that comes with the letter.

If they decide to stay in the system, health care staff who are involved in patient care can access them with a chip-and-pin NHS smartcard.

But the staff members will have to ask their permission before a record can be viewed.

A detailed audit trail is generated every time a record is viewed.

A new electronic patient record system rolled out at the Oxford University Hospital's Trust caused months of problems for patients.

Hospital chiefs brought in the new £15.7m Electronic Patient Record system at the John Radcliffe, Churchill and Horton hospitals in early December.

Ambulances were left queuing outside the A&E unit at the John Radcliffe and patients waited for hours for appointments which had disappeared from the new system.

Dr Stephen Richards, chief executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "The GPs in the group recognise the problems that arise when a patient's records are not available to other doctors outside normal GP surgery hours.

"We are striving to create a more integrated health system and sharing the most clinically important aspects of a patient's records is a key part of improving health outcomes for the people of Oxfordshire."

Growth in number of pensioners predicted

THE number of Oxfordshire pensioners aged over 90 will treble over the next two decades, care bosses have predicted.

The 2008 figure of 4,600 people of that age will rise to 16,900 by 2033, Oxfordshire County Council said.

And over the same period the 96,600 over 65-year-olds will rise in number to 171,200, with those over 85 increasing from 14,200 to 37,600, it said.

A council report said longer life expectancy and better healthcare were putting a "significant demographic

pressure on adult social care".

Age UK Oxfordshire's Paul Cann said the council was "trying hard to put a pint into a quart pot" due to Government cash cuts. He said: "There are some signs of progress in the county, but this is a care system that is creaking."



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InBRIEF**Question time for councillors**

BANBURY residents will be able to quiz councillors at Banbury Town Council's annual town meeting this month. Councillors will give a report of the year's activities and will then take questions at the Town Hall on Thursday, March 15, at 6.30pm.

Turbines

AN article on Page 10 of the February 16 edition of *The Banbury Cake* titled "Turbine appeal" stated planning permission had been refused for wind turbines north of Hanwell. As was stated later in the article, the planning application was for a wind monitoring mast to test whether conditions are appropriate for turbines. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Patients' group claims hospital fees 'prey on the vulnerable'

Cost of bedside TVs labelled 'exorbitant'

THE cost of watching a day's TV as a patient in Oxfordshire's hospitals has more than doubled in six years.

In 2006, patients in the Horton Hospital, Banbury paid just £3.50 a day to use their bedside TV set.

Now, the cost has soared to at least £7.50 for 24 hours use – rising to £10 for a more comprehensive package.

Meanwhile, inmates at the county's prisons pay just £1 per day for an in-cell Hospedia.

Now an Oxfordshire patients group has labelled the costs "exorbitant".

Jacquie Pearce-Gervis, of watchdog Patient Voice, said: "It's exorbitant in these difficult times – especially when you think

By Amanda Williams

the people who are watching it are very ill and maybe losing salary."

"It's preying on vulnerable people who don't choose to be in hospital and don't choose to be bed-bound."

Sick people staying in most wards have the option to rent a pay-per-view TV and telephone service, run by company Hospedia.

Certain wards, including some children's wards, get the TV service free.

The Oxford University Hospitals Trust, which runs the hospital, said it did not make any money from the charges.

An OUH spokesman said: "In-patients at any of our hospitals are able to watch television free in ward day rooms."

"Additionally patients have access to a free radio service at their bedside. Public telephones are available on wards, with some hospitals allowing the use of mobile phones."

"The Trust has had Hospedia services for its patients since they were first introduced across the country in 2001."

"The original company, Patientline, was commissioned to install equipment so that a comprehensive service could be provided to every patient's bedside."

Hospedia made £2m profit for the year ending March 2011. The previous year it

made a loss of £12.5m. A spokesman for Hospedia said the £10 package, introduced over the past month, was just one of a number available to patients.

He said: "Other options include a two-hour mini bundle at a cost of £2.50 – for patients who only wish to watch a few hours of TV – or a 12-hour £5 mini bundle."

"Both mini bundles contain a reduced number of TV channels, and unlimited outbound calls to UK landlines."

The spokesman added that the 2006 package for £3.50 included about 18 channels but no films or no phone calls. She was unable to say whether it included Internet.

Praise as Scout wins top award

LOCAL Scout Ben Stoker, 14, has been presented with the movement's top award.

The 1st Adderbury Troop youngster completed activities including mountaineering and caving to get the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

North Oxfordshire District Commissioner Brian Sargent praised the commitment of the Blessed George Napier Catholic School pupil.

He said: "It represents lots of hard work over a period of several years and Ben is to be congratulated on his achievement".

Scout Leader Andy Green said: "The Chief Scout's Gold Award is highly respected and something which will aid him as he seeks a college or university place, and applies for jobs in the future."

"By showing true determination and commitment to achieve this award he has gained a head start over his peers."



Ben Stoker, gets his Chief Scout's Gold Award from North Oxfordshire District Commissioner Brian Sargent

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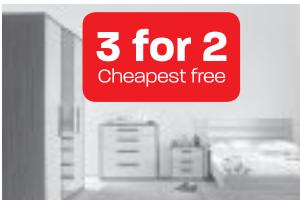
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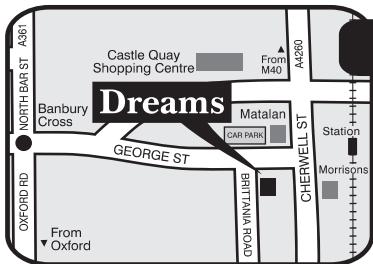
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MIND, BODY & SOUL



If you are like me, at the beginning of the year (perhaps as a New Year's Resolution) you decided 2012 was the year to get fitter and hopefully thinner. I have 4 weddings this year, one of which includes a role as Maid Of Honour, and that's where my commitment to being thinner started.... and ended! That's right, I was really positive about changing my fitness levels, but when it came to actually doing something about

it, I did nothing. I don't know if this was a lack of direction or just that it was easier not to change, but now it is March – and I have lost 2 months of the year already! It didn't used to be this difficult to stay slim, and the weight has just crept on slowly over the last 10 years. I know that if I don't make a change now, it's just going to be harder as time goes by. So, I have given myself a kick and joined a local gym – Energie in Banbury. I chose this gym after learning of a 6 week programme that guarantees results, or your money back! 6 weeks isn't that long, surely I can commit to that? That wasn't the only thing that grabbed my attention, the empower programme provides support, advice on fitness and nutrition and some much needed direction. I have tried for some time to get into fitness and having spoken to Chris and the team at Energie, I am feeling more confident about making a change for the better.

I don't want to just lose weight. Don't get me wrong, I know my confidence would be much higher if I could look like a dancer in a Beyoncé video (I think I am being a little ambitious!) but I love food and I know that now I am into my 30's, working off the calories could get even harder. I need to be fitter, I want to enjoy exercise and feel like I am getting something from it.

The team at Energie seem to be just as determined as I am about what I want to achieve – perhaps a little more confident about it than I am right now. I have been given an overview about the programme and a DVD that provides information on how the Empower programme works and how just 3 half an hour sessions a week, for 6 weeks will get me to my goal. The DVD gives great advice on maintaining a positive attitude about achieving your goals, nutrition advice and even stretching and warm-up techniques. We haven't set my goal yet, but I am hoping to lose half a stone. One of their members has already achieved this in 6 weeks, so hopefully I can too.

In the first meeting I will be weighed and measured, before my goal is agreed and planned for me. Everyone has different goals, and that's

what I love about empower, the team at energie will design a programme that fits in with your week, maximises the effects of your workout and keep you motivated along the way. Over the next 6 weeks I will meet with a trainer to assess my progress and will be given more information on nutrition and a healthier lifestyle.

So, this is the first of 3 updates on my fitness progress. I am going to start my programme next week and keep you all updated on how it's going. I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous – I am afraid of the commitment I am making, I am fearful that I won't achieve my goals – but already, I know I am in good hands. If the team at energie stay as positive and enthusiastic as they are now, we can get there together.

Next month I will be able to give you details of my first appointment, with details of my weight and measurements – plus the goal I have set with my energie trainer. I will have already started the programme and will let you know how I get on!

Until then, if you fancy joining me or want to know more about energie and empower, call the team on 01295 255737

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■ What happened on Leap Year day – which only occurs every four years

Pensioner marks her 21st - at last

RIGHT: Elsie Smith, who was born on February 29, finally celebrates her 21st birthday after 84 years
OX50370

THERE was still plenty room left on the birthday cake of octogenarian Elsie Smith – the great-grandmother from Cropredy who turned 21 last week.

Mrs Smith was born on February 29, 1928 – an impressive 84 years ago – and was brought up in Wardington.

Mum-of-three, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of two, Mrs Smith joked: "It sounds strange saying I'm 21, but I suppose that's what I am."

"Even so, I wouldn't really want to be 21 again."

"Back then I was a young mum and had a lot going on. Now that I'm 84 I enjoy the WI, short-mat bowls and my over-60s club."

Mrs Smith, like many Leap Year children, opted for another date to celebrate her birthday each year.

She said: "Growing up I didn't really think about being a Leap Year baby much."

"Mum decided I'd celebrate instead on February 28 – and then I had my real birthday, on the 29th, every four years."

"But, I wasn't the only child in the family to have an unusual birthday. My brother, Howard, was born on Easter Day, my other brother, John, was born on April Fool's Day and my sister, Nellie, arrived on the longest day!"



Ann Gameson surprises her long-term boyfriend, Glen Mullard, by proposing to him
OX50618

THERE were sighs of relief all round on Wednesday of last week, as a woman proposing to her partner on live radio received the answer she had been waiting for.

Ann Gameson, 53, took advantage of the Leap Year tradition and asked boyfriend Glenn Mullard, 49, to marry her.

She arrived with a horse and carriage

outside their workplace, Sanctuary Housing in Adderbury, and was accompanied by a full Heart FM radio crew.

Luckily, the maintenance surveyor didn't hesitate and said "yes" straightaway, in front of all their work colleagues.

Speaking to her soon-to-be fiance, Miss Gameson said: "I know you carried me over the threshold and said that was the closest to being married we would

ever be. But I've decided it's a leap year, it's the 29th of February and girls can change their minds. I've got an important question to ask you – will you marry me?"

After saying yes, Mr Mullard, who had previously suggested marriage a few years ago, said he was "very surprised" and had no idea she was planning the proposal.

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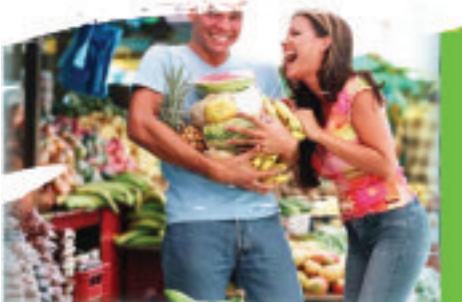
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San Carlo is the perfect choice for any day of the year with their extensive and authentic menu. All food is cooked by their talented chef's in an original Italian way. Their traditional stone-baked pizza's are cooked in the open plan restaurant and are often a favourite of their diners, however the rest of the menu is full of other traditional dishes that include pasta's, salads and seafood. There really is something to suit

everyone, with recipes used from all parts of Italy and a great specials menu.

From the moment you walk through the door you are met by a warm and friendly team and the smell of mouth watering food will excite your senses. San Carlo is a family run business and when you dine with them, it's like you are part of their extended family. Nothing is too much trouble as they aim to make your experience special each time you visit.

They also offer a takeaway and home delivery service in and around Banbury.

So, whether you are looking for somewhere special for mum, or just a treat for family and friends, reserve a table at San Carlo today on 01295 703073. You can find out more about San Carlo and take a look at their menu at www.sancarlobanbury.webs.com

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Foundation that helps set up community shops gets grant from Prince's fund

Boost for village guardians



By Tom Jennings

A FOUNDATION, which helps safeguard the countryside by providing support and cash to community shops, has been given a £30,000 boost.

The Plunkett Foundation has helped create and save shops across Oxfordshire. It received the cash from the Prince's Countryside Fund, which is the brainchild of The Prince of Wales.

The foundation has helped the majority of the 271 community-owned shops in the UK and it is hoped the grant will directly fund a further ten nationwide.

The £30,000 cash will also enable at least 40 communities, which are currently without a shop, to visit successful examples of community shops for inspiration.

Mike Perry, from Plunkett, said: "We are delighted to be named as one of the successful projects to receive funding from the Prince's Countryside Fund. It will enable us to continue our work, helping communities to take control of the issues affecting them through community ownership."

"Village shops are currently closing at a rate of around 400 per year, but community ownership saves around five per cent of these."

"It is a viable and sustainable business model. Of the 282 shops to have opened across the UK, only 11 have ever closed, giving them a survival rate of 96 per cent."

Tackley Village Shop director Barbara Vaughan said: "The foundation advised and supported us in the development of our business plan.

"They were the first people we turned to

Tackley Village Shop director Barbara Vaughan

and they helped – and are still helping – us significantly. They are a supportive, flexible and valuable asset to us."

The £30,000 cash injection was part of a £422,000 pot, which the Prince's Countryside Fund has dished out to 15 rural projects.

Fund director Victoria Harris said: "The projects we selected all make a special contribution to safeguarding the countryside at

either a national or more local level across the UK. With the countryside under threat and often neglected, the work of The Prince's Countryside Fund is a vital lifeline for the countryside which, employing 5.5m people, is so important to the whole country's well-being and economy."

For more information about The Plunkett Foundation, call 01993 810730 or visit plunkett.co.uk

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■ Quest to find 'Sport Makers' in the run-up to the London Olympics

On your starting blocks for sporting campaign

By Rhianne Pope

TOP athletes will visit the county this spring in a drive to get more people involved in sport.

A campaign to sign people up as "Sport Makers" in the run-up to the Olympics was launched in Oxfordshire last year.

It aims to get people running community sports events to help the whole country get more active.

And some major names in the world of sport, along with 150 volunteers, have now signed up to get more people on board.

Tristan Hale, sports development officer at the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, said: "We now have 10,000 people registered nationally to become Sport Makers."

"And the amount of people starting to come forward in

Oxfordshire is brilliant. We've got about 150 people registered now."

Coming to the county as ambassadors for the scheme over the coming months will be Commonwealth Squash gold medallist Sue Wright, London Olympic Judo hopeful Tom Davis and Olympic rower Ben Hunt-Davis.

As ambassadors, they will each head up their own event, giving an insight on what it is like to compete at the top level and how the Olympics has inspired them.

Mr Hale said: "The simple fact is that the Olympics are in London but even if people don't care about that, even if they are bored with the event, I hope everyone can get on board with the idea of people being more active and doing more sport."

The Sport Markers programme has been funded with £4m of National Lottery funding, aiming to get 40,000 people volunteering by the summer.

It is hoped at least 500 people will sign up to volunteer for various sports around Oxfordshire in the next few months.

Anyone signing up will get advice and resources on how to get involved, from volunteering at Saturday football matches to encouraging friends to go for a weekly jog in the park.

Olympic rower Ben Hunt-Davis said: "With the Olympics, you have different bits of legacy – the buildings, the legacy of the actual Games.

"But one of the key things is what impact the Olympics will have on the public in other parts of the country."

To get involved or to meet the ambassadors, register at sportmakers.co.uk and book on to one of the events.

Curry night invitation

SEATS are still available for a fundraising curry night in aid of Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Bengal Spice, in Deddington, will open its doors on Monday to raise cash for the charity.

The restaurant is donating all the evening's food, so all proceeds will go to the air ambulance.

Eleanor Green, Oxfordshire fundraising manager for the Air



Tristan Hale, sports development officer at the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership



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InBRIEF

Planting plea

■ LOCAL people are being invited to plant a tree to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Banbury Town Council wants to create a "jubilee orchard" in Browning Road Park. It is part of a planned revamp of the park, for which plans will go on display at the town hall from next Tuesday. To plant a tree call Ann Sewell on 01295 250340.

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HOPEFULLY YOURS Voluptuous female, 31, short hair, seeking a nice, good looking, fun guy, 24-57 for laughter and romance. Swindon.. Box 104678

JOIN HANDS Sweet Swindon single mum, 39, loves reading, cinema, dining and more, looking for friends and maybe someone special.. Box 104988

HAPPY GO LUCKY 38yr old lady, 5ft1, size 14. I have 2 sons and would like to meet a happy, laid back guy who likes kids. Devizes.. Box 113079

LOVE TO TALK Dark-eyed Wilts girl, 42, 5'2", enjoys nights out, movies and more, searching for an independent gent, to cosy times and conversation. Box 113059

SOUND NICE? Fun, curly Wiltshire blonde, 44, green eyes, looking for genuine, loving guy. I am caring person with GSOH.. Box 852093

STARTING FRESH Separated, caring Witney woman, 44, honest, GSOH, trustworthy, enjoys family life, swimming, music, theatre, cinema and walks, seeking a similar man, kind and sincere, for dates & laughter.. Box 116588

FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring Oxford mum, 44, genuine, active, attractive, enjoys theatre, cinema, walks and nights in, seeking a similar family man, honest, funny and kind for sharing good times with.. Box 114046

LIFE IS TO SHARE Single, genuine Oxfordshire woman, 45, GSOH, slim/build, N/S, 5'5", enjoys days out, music, films and walking, seeking a special man, kind, loving and fun, for a long term relationship.. Box 115621

OUR MOMENT Lovely, hard-working, petite woman, 47, likes socialising, city pubs, eating out, seeks similar guy, for fun, laughter & hopefully more. Oxford.. Box 102616

LOTS OF FUN Blonde, cuddly female, 48, 5ft, pastry chef, with children, searching for a youthful chap, to share life with.. Box 113078

SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eyed Trowbridge female, 48, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man.. Box 109588

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LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy, active Abingdon man, 45, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-75, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more.. Box 100721

ALL FOR EACH OTHER Tactile Calne widow, 69, enjoys nights out, cooking, animals, holidays when possible, would love to meet a male who wants companionship and maybe more.. Box 120683

PART OF YOUR WORLD Genuine Newbury male, 45, single dad, likes weekends away, family life and socialising, looking for an outgoing female for fun, friendship and maybe.. Box 114328

SHAREN GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 57, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar lady for companionship.. Box 109413

THE HONEST KIND Easygoing young Didcot guy, 62, 5'9", enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship.. Box 110649

MAKE THE CONNECTION Outgoing widower, 57, smoker, N/D, lives in Oxford, looking for a nice female for good times and more.. Box 117043

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 63, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship.. Box 116662

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 46, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman.. Box 851817

THE BEST OF FRIENDS? Friendly, chatty Oxford female, 57, likes chats, coffee, lunch and anything else, looking for males and female for friendship.. Box 116662

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY Caring, genuine and romantic Wallingford female, 57, likes reading, watching films, having a laugh, social drinks, cooking, diy, looking for someone really nice to enjoy good times with.. Box 119061

KINDRED SPIRITS Presentable, educated chap, 65, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, wlm attractive, vivacious lady, for romance.. Box 101058

THE BRIGHT SIDE Outgoing, friendly Wallingford male, 39, likes swimming, cycling, singing, eating out, places of interest, looking for sociable guys, for friendship laughter and good times.. Box 114488

TWO OF A KIND Honest Oxford male, 40, 6ft, average build, seeks good-looking man, 40-50, for fun, company & more.. Box 102391

PUTTING THE SPARK BACK Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 48, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar male 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to.. Box 115976

ON THE WAY TO YOU Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 65, enjoys walking, watching tv, cosy nights in, reading & socialising, seeks friendly active chap, 60-70 for company and more.. Box 104839

MADE FOR EACH OTHER Handsome, healthy, friendly, easygoing Marlborough gent, 58, non-smoker, enjoys the outdoors, would like to meet an attractive lady to share friendship and more.. Box 120679

STARTING TOGETHER Country loving Wallingford widower, 59, 6', grown up children, likes sports, theatre, meals out, 60s music, cooking, like to meet a simple woman to share life with.. Box 115773

THE BEST IS YET TO BE Carrying, romantic Bicester male, 59, works full-times, loves weekend away, car boot sales and walking, looking for a lady 48-55 to share life and love with.. Box 114901

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful male, 68, 5'6", slim build, gsoh, likes sports, walks, animals, seems decent lady, 55-70 to settle down with Banbury.. Box 104901

NICE DAYS AHEAD Easygoing, non-smoking Abingdon widower, 70, 5'9", enjoys travel, pub meal and car boot sales, would like to meet a nice non-smoking lady, to settle down with.. Box 116366

SOUL TO SOUL Divorced, active male, 77, looks younger, 5'6", enjoys pub meals, car boot sales, coss words, crosswords and cosy times, wlm charming female, to share quality times.. Box 100937

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Hitting 70 and still a sellout

MARK Knopfler, Jeff Beck and Keith Richards revere him. The Beatles used to open for him. He gave Hank Marvin the Shadows' distinctive sound. Jimi Hendrix even started playing a guitar behind his head after he'd seen him do it, for God's sake.

But catch Joe Brown resting on his laurels? Not on your nelly.

"Icon? Naaaaah. We all get inspired by someone don't we? I just get on with it!"

And it's exactly this workmanlike approach to his music that has won Joe serious adoration among his peers and fans. At the age of 70, he has just set off on another brain-busting 31-date sellout tour with his band The Bruvvers.

Where does he find his energy?

"It's not as tiring as it sounds – in fact it's very organised – not the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll you might expect," he laughs.

"Weirdly, I do still get nervous. I was talking to the band about that the other day. Dunno why, but I get scared. When I'm out there, I'm in my element, though."

"As for hard work, well, in the old days I'd be working every night wouldn't I?"

Joe is referring to his days as a fireman on the railways – his first love. He grew up in the East End. His mum ran a pub in Plaistow and his grandfather was a trick rider in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Circus. He joined his first band, The Spacemen

By Liz Nicholls

Skiffle Group, where his talents were spotted and he went on to back Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran and Johnny Cash. He can play at least eight different instruments despite never having had a music lesson in his life.

"People always ask me questions like 'When did you learn to play the guitar?' and I'm like, no no no mate, I never did – I still am!"

"I shall go on until someone says you're embarrassing yourself."

There will be plenty of new songs, as Joe likes to mix it up for the loyal fans.

But one song on the playlist will be *I'll See You In My Dreams* – the song he played at the legendary George Harrison tribute concert at the Royal Albert Hall in 2002.

The DVD of the show has gone 12-times platinum in the US alone.

"Oh George," says Joe, sadly. "Yes, I'm not keen on dwelling on it, that he's not here any more. But he was a good friend. His wife, Olivia, asked me to play it and it just went from there."

George was the one who gave me the song on CD in the first place. It was by Ike Edwards, who was the voice of Jimminy Cricket in *Pinochio*, and a huge star in the 1930s. He was known as Uke Ike."

Joe's voice perks up as soon as he mentions the ukelele – an instrument he adores. He's even got his own range of ukes now.

"I've always loved the instrument – and I do see it as an instrument, not a toy."

"I don't understand people who say 'I'm not really interested in music'. Sometimes I'll hear something that's not my thing, but at least they're giving music a go. Good on em!"

So, will you be hitting it hard on the tour, like some of the young pretenders do?

"Nah, I've always been pretty straight. I'm no angel. We've had our bouts of drinking lunacy in the early days, but we always turned up on time."

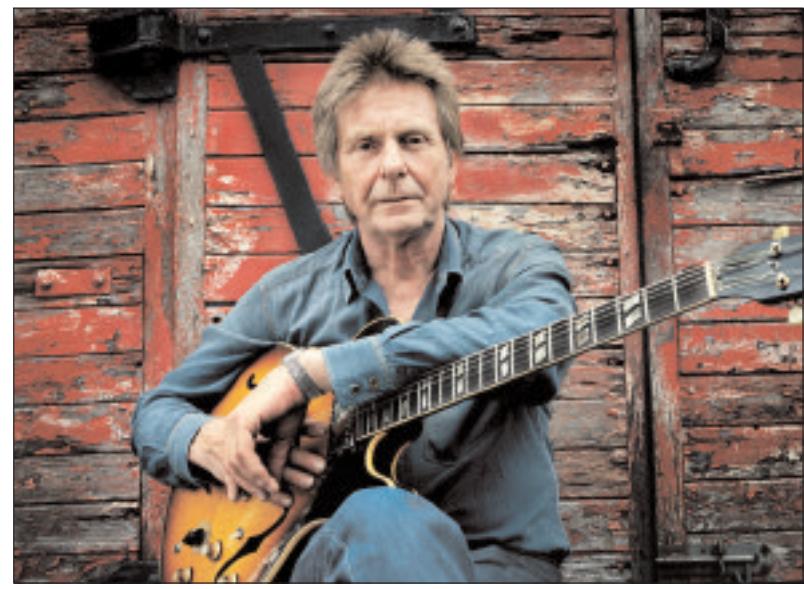
"It's the business. It's the job. A lot of people make a habit of misbehaving, because it's the image, but you've got to be a really big star to get away with all that."

So, apart from charity work and catching up on sleep, what do you like doing on your days off, then? "What I really like doing is mucking around with wood. I love it!

"But I nearly took my finger off the other day making a worktop. It's one I use to hold my plectrum so it's been a pain. But I suppose I'm lucky I didn't take more off!"

Yes indeed, otherwise there would have been some very disappointed die-hard fans tomorrow night.

■ Joe Brown performs at the Royal & Derngate tomorrow night. To book, call 01604 624811 or visit www.royalandderngate.co.uk



Joe Brown, performing at the Royal & Derngate, Northampton, tomorrow night



Celebrating an anniversary

ORGANISERS of Banburyshire's oldest music festival are putting the final touches to their 100th anniversary event.

And they are promising a bigger and better show than ever before.

The Chipping Norton Musical Festival is thought to be one of the oldest in the UK and, apart from years off during the World Wars, has been running every year since 1904.

The festival, which is staged from this Friday to March 24, is expected to attract thousands of music lovers and will feature more than 1,000 performers.

It will be launched with a youth jazz band competition tomorrow, which will see six school bands compete for a trophy and £250.

Highlights will include performances by recitalist Anthony Williams, jazz singer Claire Martin and classical and screen composer Sir Richard Bennett.

The festival will come to a close on March 24 with an evening featuring highlights from the previous two weeks.



Chipping Norton Music Festival committee members gather on the town hall steps to promote this year's festival

Festival secretary Rosemary Wilson said: "We do hope this will be the best year so far. It is a very friendly festival that involves the community and provides a

platform for people who enjoy playing music to perform. The festival is now embedded in the calendar and people do feel that they can be a part of it.

"It gives people something to feel proud about because it is such a good thing to be happening in Chipping Norton and involves so many people."

She added: "The festival was the vision of a couple of ladies who thought it would be lovely for all the large houses to have choirs to fill the winter evenings."

"The choirs got together in the spring for a competition, and then a concert."

This year's event will feature a choral workshop of more than 60 adults and children, who will sing a piece specially commissioned.

The piece, composed by Colin Touchin, is based on Edward Thomas's poem *Adlestrop*, named after the village.

■ For more information about Chipping Norton Music Festival and information about tickets, visit cnmf.org.uk

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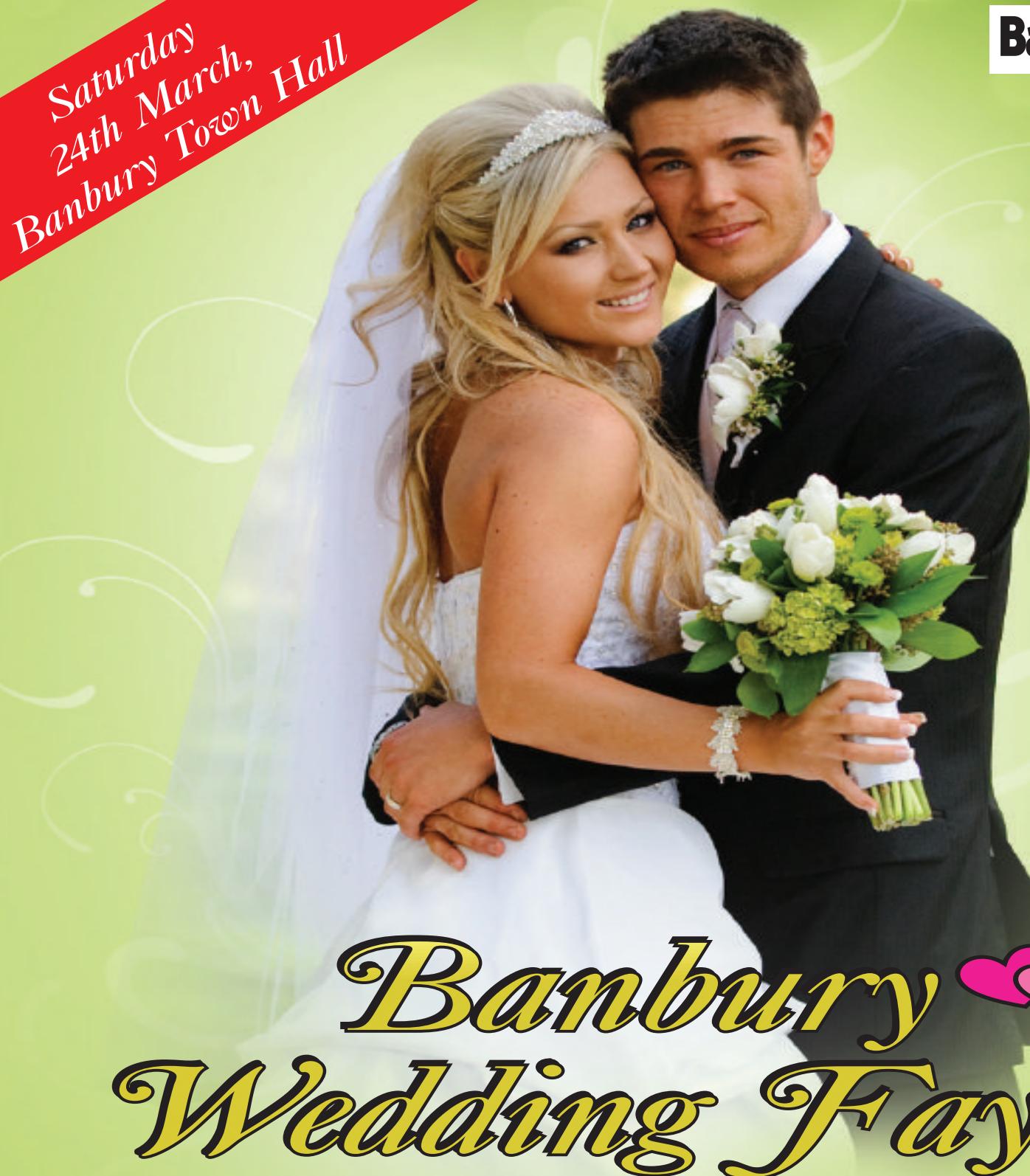
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Sci-fi trilogy gets a lacklustre start

JOHN CARTER 3D (12A, 132 mins) Action/Sci-Fi/Romance. Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, Mark Strong, Dominic West, Ciaran Hinds, James Purefoy, Daryl Sabara, Willem Dafoe, Samantha Morton, Thomas Haden Church, Polly Walker. Director Andrew Stanton.

Intended as the first instalment of an action-packed trilogy, *John Carter* is a fantastical and fantastically dull battle beyond the stars, based on the novel *A Princess Of Mars*, by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

Oscar-winning director Andrew Stanton, who collected golden statuettes for *Finding Nemo* and *WALL-E*, makes a lacklustre live action debut with this sprawling epic.

The miasma of digital effects, which hopes to emulate *Avatar* by immersing us in an eye-popping alien world, feel flat in 3D and the quality of the computer trickery doesn't match the ambition of Stanton's own script, co-written by Mark Andrews and Michael Chabon.

Like the monstrous white apes, which the eponymous hero fights in a gladiatorial setting reminiscent of the Rancor pit sequence from *Return Of The Jedi*, the film lumbers.

The bloated running time certainly tests our patience, especially with so little to hold our attention on the screen.

Technical wizardry overwhelms one or two flickers of emotion and we give up caring well before the plodding 132 minutes are up



Young Edgar Rice Burroughs (Daryl Sabara) is summoned to the home of his beloved uncle and former Confederate soldier John Carter (Taylor Kitsch), who has perished in mysterious circumstances.

But Kitsch is devoid of charisma as the eponymous time-travelling soldier, who tips the balance of power in favour of the pacifist good guys by scything through hordes of computer-generated beasts.

Mark Strong, as Matai Shang, the leader of the Holy Therns, and Dominic West (playing Prince Sab Than) are pantomime villains, and their comeuppance is swift and unsatisfying.

A convoluted race-against-time finale neatly tees up a second film in the series but unless *John Carter* magically strikes box office gold, it's doubtful that his adventures will go any further than the closing credits here.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: Chipping Norton School, Burford Road, Chipping Norton: Youth Jazz Band Challenge. 6.30pm. £2.50. 01993 831810.

GF Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Drive. 9pm. 01295 252852.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Premier Abba tribute band. £15, concession £13.75pm. 01608 642350.

SATURDAY: GF Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: The Megastar boys. 9pm. £1. 01295 252852.

Social Club, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney: Axis. 7.15pm. Duo. £4. 01295 721220.

SUNDAY: Social Club, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney: Dave Surman. 7.15pm. £4. 01295 721220.

Town Hall, Market Place, Chipping Norton: Family Concert, to be given by pianist Anthony Williams. 3-5pm. £10. One free child per adult, extra child £5 (tickets from Jaffé & Neale, Middle Row). 01993 831810.

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, 12A, Sun, Wed 11.15am, Fri-Sat, Mon-Thu 2pm, daily 5, 7.45pm (subtitled Tue 7.45pm). John Carter, 12A (3-D), Sat 11.20am*, daily 2.20pm*, 5.20*, 8.20pm*.

Autism-friendly screening: John Carter, 12A, Sun 11.30am (lights raised, no adverts/trailers, lowered sound). Odeon Culture: Madam Butterfly 3D, PG, screening of Royal Opera House production, with Liping Zhang, Sun 2pm. Senior Screen: New Year's Eve, 15, Wed 11am*, ends 1.13pm*. Odeon Kids: Happy Feet II, U, Sat 11am, ends 12.58pm. Box office: 0871 224 4007.

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Mar 8, Henry Blofeld, *Shaken Not Stirred*. 7.30pm. £15. Mar 9, Limehouse Lizzy. 8.30pm. £15.

Mar 10, *Swan Lake*, performed by the Vienna Festival Ballet. £19, concession £16, 16 and younger

£12. 2.30pm, 6pm. Mar 13, *Some Like It Hotter*. 7.30pm. £12, concession £10. Box office: 01295 279002
The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Mar 8, *The Marvellous and Unlikely Fete of Little Upper Downing*. £13, concession £11. 7.45pm, doors 6.45pm.
Mar 10, *Snail and the Whale*. All tickets £8.50. 11.30am and 2.30pm.
Mar 12-14, *Our Country's Good*. Australia 1788. £14, concession £12. 7.45pm, Tue mat 2pm. Box office: 01608 642350,

Events

SATURDAY: Sports and Social Club, Worton Road, Middle Barton: Gentleman's Evening. Supper included. £10. 8pm. (Men only.) £10. Box office: 01869 347597.

Car boot and table-top sale: Tew Centre, Ledwell Road, Great Tew. Car boot and table-top sale. Sat-Sun, 10am-2pm. 01608 683896.

Win tickets

JUST so you feel like you really are at the movies, the *Banbury Cake* and Odeon Cinema Banbury have teamed up to offer you the chance to catch up on the latest action blockbusters, sci-fi epics and family favourites. Yes, every week in the *Banbury Cake* we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies.



And this week, we're offering a pair of tickets to see *John Carter*, or any other film, showing at the Odeon cinema in Horse Fair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

■ Talking of "Carters", who was the star of the classic British thriller *Get Carter*?

- a. Michael Caine?
- b. Sean Connery?
- c. Woody Allen?

Email your answer to jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next Monday.

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Newsquest rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

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CakeSport

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Key players are forced off the pitch, one with a sprained ankle and the other with calf strain



Injured: Banbury United's Liam Dolman

Banbury is rocked by injury blows

BANBURY United suffered a double injury blow as they slipped to defeat against a poor Arlesey Town side in an Evo-Stik Southern League's Premier Division clash at the Armadillo Stadium.

Danny Edmond sustained a badly sprained ankle, while Liam Dolman picked up a calf strain.

Shortly after Dolman left the field, Arlesey took the lead in the 32nd minute.

Ex-Banbury defender Stefan Bailey broke down the right and squared the ball to former Oxford United winger Mitchell Cole, who fired past the unsighted Andy Kemp.

Three minutes into first-half injury time, Arlesey struck again through Chris Marsh's fierce shot.

The second half became a physical encounter, and after not having shown any yellow cards in

Arlesey Tn (Cole 32, Marsh 45+3)	2
Banbury Utd (Angus 69)	1

the first half, the referee handed out seven. Edmond's injury, which came soon after the break, wasn't the result of foul play, but from an awkward fall.

Banbury pulled a goal back in the 69th minute when Dior Angus guided the ball over keeper Nick Bussey, but they couldn't equalise.

Banbury Utd: Kemp, Coleman, Polk, Dolman (Chilton 28), Thackeray, Emery, Edmond (Angus 61), Cole, Johnson, Blake, Howell. Subs not used: Richardson, Kinch.

Attendance: 143.



Injured: Danny Edmond

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Some sort of upheaval is likely in your surroundings and you may have to adjust yourself to new circumstances. Someone appears to be particularly well starred at this time and is growing on you more and by the day. It is important you stay on the right side of a superior and not antagonise them as you will be needing their help very shortly. Call now for a long term look at your future.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

An interesting journey is indicated which may cause you to feel slightly uncomfortable. However, this should pass by Friday. Material gains are indicated which should help to improve your appearance or surroundings. Don't be too proud to accept help from someone else as they will enjoy feeling useful. Ring me now to hear why it's worth going for what you want romantically now.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

It is time you decided exactly what you are aiming for and the best way to achieve it. Children may require more of your time and attention than usual. A new venture appears to be progressing too slowly for your liking and you will have to do a bit of pushing. You may be in for a bit of a shock when you discover what a so called friend has been saying. Ring now for clear vision.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Any business deal is under lucky influences just now so clear up any outstanding matters. Encouraging prospects are apparent in the romantic field, but it may be up to you to take the initiative. Some sort of reunion is indicated. Look into any new ventures very carefully before you commit yourself or you could let yourself in for more than you bargained for. Call now to hear more.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Don't make any changes or alterations without careful planning first or you could find you have made a mistake. Be careful not to push a close one too hard or they could retaliate. Something you have been planning to buy may turn out to be more expensive than you had anticipated. An important letter is forecast which makes you want to alter your plans. Ring now for more detail.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Make an effort to see more of a new acquaintance as you should be able to help each other in some way. Join in the activities in your surroundings as you should thoroughly enjoy them. Relatives could cause you a few problems just now but try not to let them get you down. You're in control. You just don't realise it yet. Ring me now to make the most of your stars for this week.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Relatives could take up more of your time than usual and this is the week in which you find out who you really care for and who you'd prefer to keep a distance from. Don't let jealous comments stop you from going for your dreams. This is a week in which you have the backing of the stars to make the impossible possible. Give me a call now to hear what structure Saturn can offer you.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

A way can be found round a difficult situation if you look hard enough. Well meaning but naive advice from friends has meant that you've been kept moving forward and it's time to rectify this fact. New flirtations make for a dramatic week and one in which you may have to make a choice between two people who are important to you. Ring now to hear how Mars promises fun and excitement.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You can look forward to the end of a very difficult and frustrating period. This week brings significant opportunities for changes and most Sagittarians will find much more time to relax and enjoy life as the month wears on. Don't be offish with new faces as they hold the key to you getting the future of your dreams. Ring me now to hear how Mars favours improved relationships.

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This is a week in which plans will have to be changed so try to keep commitments to a minimum. You'll thank me when you find out what or who else can take its place. Don't be rude to friends' new partners; there is more to them than first meets the eye. Time taken to older faces can reveal much about your past. Ring me now to hear what structure Saturn can add to the pot.

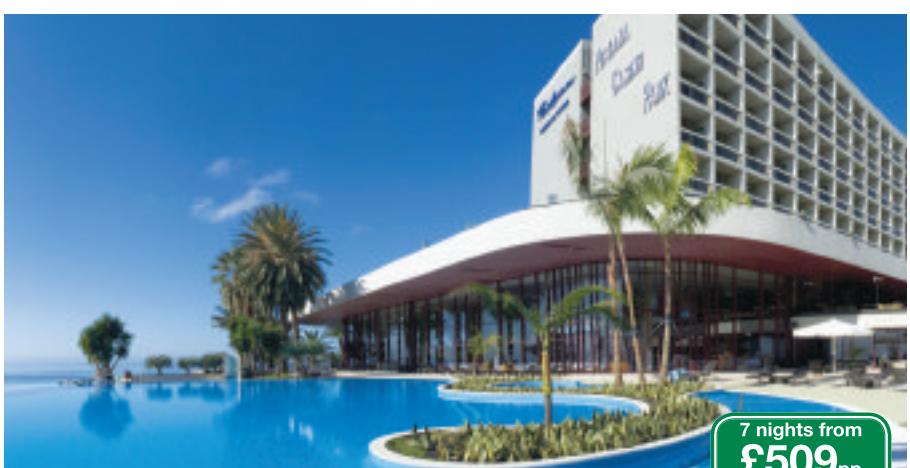
AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

It is clear you have been through a period of fluctuation and your confidence has taken a knock. However, on the emotional scene you are much in demand and listening to what other people are doing with their lives should give you the confidence you need to take down those barriers and take away the limitations. Ring me now to hear how all foreign links prove lucky right now.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

The last few months have proved to be both expensive and exhausting. When exactly have you given yourself time to get over this though Pisces? You haven't, according to your stars. Make time for yourself please Pisces. After all, if you don't then why should anyone else. Mars promises an apology you had almost given up on hearing. Ring me now so I can tell you about tomorrow today.

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CakeProperty

banburycake.co.uk/homes

A 'chocolate box' cottage

By Gill Oliver

A QUINTESSENTIALLY chocolate box cottage in one of the most sought-after villages in Banburyshire, is how agents are describing a property new to the market.

Woodbine Cottage, in the centre of Bloxham, is Grade II-listed and is built from mellow Hornton stone under a traditional thatched roof with a more recent single-storey brick and slate extension to the rear. Character features include

exposed timbers and an inglenook fireplace in the sitting room, while gardens to the front and rear are bounded by the village brook on one side.

The cottage has also been renovated, with three bedrooms, a kitchen/breakfast room, gas fired central heating and car parking.

Keith Woolley, of Banbury-based agents King & Woolley, said: "This property has just come on the market and we are expecting a lot of interest."

Meanwhile, County Cottage, situated in the heart of Hook Norton, offers the possibility of owning a character property

with plenty of space for a family. It has four bedrooms and a range of modern amenities combined with traditional features, such as exposed timbers and stonework and an inglenook fireplace.

Outside, a charming garden and garage complete the picture.

Woodbine Cottage is on the market for £375,000, while County Cottage is available for £450,000.

For more information, or to arrange a viewing, contact agents King & Woolley on 01295 263505 or see kingandwoolley.com



Woodbine Cottage, Bloxham, is on the market for £375,000

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	£185,000 Springfield Ave <small>Well presented three bedroom family home offers entrance hall, ground floor w.c., lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, 1st floor bathroom, two double bedrooms, one single, good size rear garden and off road parking. Viewing highly recommended.</small>		£110,000 Settler House <small>This ground floor one bedroom flat offers:- Re-fitted bathroom, fitted kitchen/Single garage. No Chain. All electric. Close to the town centre M40 and Train station ideal for investment or first time buyer.</small>		£159,500 Hastings Road <small>This good size three bedroom family home set on a corner plot offers:- Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Main bathroom with separate W.C. Low maintenance rear garden, good size front garden with garage and driveway.</small>		£152,950 Sussex Drive <small>This Three bedroom Mid terraced family home offers lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom. Rear garden and parking, double glazed and gas central heating. Popular area close to shops, schools and a bus route.</small>		£149,000 Warwick Road <small>This property offers- Three bedrooms Two reception rooms Kitchen Bathroom Garden Close to the town centre. No chain. Would benefit from some modernisation Gas central heating Double glazing</small>
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	£125,000 Orchard Way <small>This Two double bedroom property offers - Lounge/ diner, Kitchen, Bathroom, Good size Enclosed Garden. No Chain, Mains gas, central heating. Would benefit from some updating.</small>		£104,000 Calthorpe Street <small>One bedroom studio apartment Kitchen area with appliances Lounge Bedroom with en suite shower room. Town centre Electric heating ideal for investment or first time buyer</small>	DUE TO A VERY BUSY START TO THE YEAR WE NEED MORE PROPERTIES PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION.				
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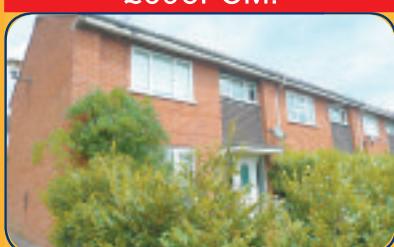
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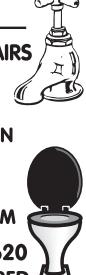
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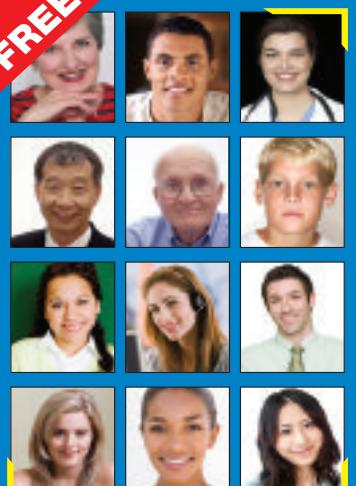
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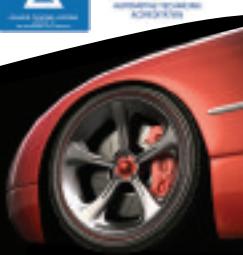
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Flagship Shogun shifts up a gear

By David Duffy

IF you are seriously planning to go on the pull, Mitsubishi's square-jawed Shogun has it all.

Bold, muscular and stylish, the Shogun has the heavyweight credentials to back up its macho looks.

Changes made to this year's model mean an improvement in standard equipment and comfort, better fuel consumption from the 3.2-litre, four-cylinder turbo-diesel engine and a 20 per cent drop in emissions.

But it is the built-in frame monocoque chassis that sits under the bodywork, combined with a tough four-wheel-drive system and front wishbone front and multi-link rear suspension which gives the Shogun its rounded, rugged ability.

Its pulling power is truly awesome with the five-door test model having a braked towing capacity of 3,500kg, making it a favourite for people towing caravans, horse trailers, boats and the like.

Couple that with its abilities to cope in the toughest off-road conditions and it is easy to see why it has won so many friends.

On the road, Mitsubishi's flagship is composed, calm and quiet, but while many 4x4s spend the vast majority of their life on the straight, smooth and narrow, the Shogun offers the prospect of far more

adventurous motoring. That hint of a more exotic life off-road is underlined by the fitting of both an altimeter and a barometer to all models.

But it is the small lever to the left of the centre console that offers the real passport to adventure. It allows the selection of four driving modes – rear-wheel-drive, full-time four-wheel drive, a setting that locks up the centre differential when the going gets tough, and a final setting for seriously extreme, low-ratio off-road work.

Priced from about £25,000 for the three-door, entry-level SG2 model, the Shogun comes in either three-door five-seat, or five-door seven seat versions, and a choice of four trim levels.

The three-door and five-door Shogun models have distinctly different styling, with a chunkier, sportier three-door model and a more family-oriented five-door Shogun, with a third row of seats,

Auto facts

Model: Mitsubishi Shogun LWB 3.2 DI-DC SG3

Price: £37,999

Insurance group: 33 (1-50)

Fuel consumption (Combined):

33.2mpg

Top speed: 111mph

Length: 490cm/192.9in

Width: 187.5cm/73.8in

Luggage capacity: 23.4 cu ft

Fuel tank capacity: 19.3 gallons/88l

CO₂ emissions: 224g/km

Warranty: Three years/unlim mileage



BIG HITTER: The Shogun has the heavyweight credentials to back up its macho looks

which lie beneath the floor of the boot. As well as an array of standard safety equipment including stability and traction control, twin front, side and curtain airbags, anti-lock brakes, the SG2 model has standard alarm and keyless entry, climate control, 18-inch alloy wheels and a leather-covered multi-function steering wheel.

The long wheelbase test model in SG3 trim packs in some properly luxurious pieces of equipment.

The 2012 Shogun is very much an evolutionary, rather than revolutionary model, and Shogun fans will love it.

Usedcarscene

White proves right choice for resale value

SILVER remains the most popular used car colour, according to analysis of auction sales in January 2012 by British Car Auctions (BCA).

Analysis of a substantial sample of 40,000 vehicles sold during January 2012 reveals that silver accounted for 29.5 per cent of the total, ahead of black at 25 per cent.

Blue cars accounted for 20 per cent, with grey in fourth place at 13 per cent. Red cars represented eight per cent of the total, with white and green each accounting for just under three per cent.

More esoteric colours such as yellow, orange, bronze, mauve, turquoise and even pink also featured in the sample but with very low volumes.

Of the more popular colours, white cars achieved the highest value on average, selling for £9,752, compared to the overall average of £6,040, reflecting that white is a fashionable choice on higher value executive cars.

The white cars in the sample were also younger (37 months) and lower mileage (43,000) than the average of 60 months and 58,000 miles.

"Anyone who has ever bought or sold a used car very quickly learns to appreciate the importance of colour and the effect it can have on the price when you sell it", said Tim Naylor of BCA.

"There's reliable silver and black, which is often favoured for its menacing looks on performance models and for a sleek understated look on luxury saloons.

"There are also value differences between metallic colours — very saleable — and flat, non-reflective colours which are usually less desirable."

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■ TOYOTA is topping off its 2012 Aygo range with two special editions called Fire and Ice. In Burnt Orange paint including the side mouldings and matching interior trim, the Fire is one for the style-hungry with privacy glass, 14-inch alloy wheels, front fog lamps and LED daytime running lights. The Ice model focuses more on interior technology, with air conditioning, a USB port, Bluetooth and part-leather upholstery. It's even DAB-ready. The Fire costs from £9,595 and the Ice from £9,895.

■ HOT hatch fans will be delighted to hear Renault has announced an upgraded version of the Mégane Renaultsport for 2012. The Mégane now wears the 265 tag to denote an increase in power to 265 horsepower. This cuts the 0-62mph time to six seconds flat and raises the top speed to 158mph. The stripped-back Cup edition costs £24,825, while the more luxurious 265 model is £26,025, with both models due to be appear in showrooms in early April.

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* Source: Continental Research 2008; 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements.



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 Audi A4 2.4 SE, 2004, Brilliant Black, 40000 mls, leather, climate control, alloys, CD, r/lock, e/window £5499
 Audi A4 Convertible 3.0 Quattro Sport, 2004, Metallic Blue, 63000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, air con £6499
 Audi A8 3.8 V8 TDI Quattro Tip, 2004/54, Metallic Silver, 63000 mls, sat nav, leather, CD, climate control, wood pack, e/seats, heated seats, plus much more... £12499

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BMW 325i TI SE Compact Auto, 2002, Brilliant Black, 41000 mls, leather, CD, PDC, air con, r/lock, £4499
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 BMW 325 CI SE Coupe, 2005, Metallic Blue, 47000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock, tints £6999
 BMW 330 Convertible Auto, Sports Spec, 2002/52, Metallic Silver, 39000 mls, leather, alloys, sport trim, e/roof, CD, climate control, cruise control, PDC, £6999
 BMW 318i CI SE 2.0 Convertible, 2004, Metallic Blue, 62000 mls, leather, alloys CD, cruise, tilt wheel £6999
 BMW 325i Se Auto Convertible, 2007, Metallic Grey, 51000 mls, leather, air con, sat nav, 18 inch alloys, cruise, e/roof, e/seats £15999
 BMW 520 Diesel SE Estate, 2006, Metallic Silver, 54000 mls, CD, air con, alloys, r/lock, roof rails, split rear tailgate, PDC, folding seats £9999
 BMW 530 i M Sport Auto, 2006, Metallic Grey, 76000 mls, Leather, sat nav, alloys, PDC, cruise, spoiler kit, r/lock, rear rests, air bags all round £9999
 BMW Z4 2.5 Se Auto, 2005/55, Metallic Silver, 30000 mls, leather, heated seats, CD, e/roof, alloys £10499
 BMW Z30 Diesel Sport Auto, 2005, Metallic Grey, 74000 mls, leather, sat nav, cruise, alloys, CD, electric seats, r/lock, wood pack £11799
 BMW X3 2.5i Sport Auto, 2004/54, Metallic Silver, 56000 mls, climate control, alloys, leather, CD £8999

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 Jeep Patriot 2.4 Limited, 2008/58, Metallic Silver, 18000 mls, leather, cruise control, CD, alloys, roof rails, r/lock, air bags, electric seats, £9499
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Jaguar X Type 2.1 V6 Auto Se, 2003/53, Metallic Silver, 50000 mls, leather, alloys CD, r/lock, rests £4499

Jaguar S Type 2.5 Auto, 2005, Metallic Blue, 38000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock £6499

Jaguar S Type 2.5 V6 Sport Auto, 2002 Metallic Silver 55000 mls Leather, climate, alloys, electrics £4799

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Jaguar XK Supercharged Convertible, 1999, Brilliant Red, 102000 mls, Leather, e/roof, alloys, CD, r/lock, e/seats, private plate £7999

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Jaguar XJ 3.0 V6 Sovereign Auto, 2006/56, Metallic Grey, 60000 mls, sat nav, alloys, CD, electric seats, air con, cruise, memory, mirrors, seats, and steering wheel £10999

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Hyundai Coupe SIII 2.0 Coupe, 2008/58, Metallic Silver, 33000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD £7499

Mitsubishi

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Mercedes

Mercedes A Class 150 Elegance Se Auto, 2005, Metallic Silver, 19000 mls, air con, CD, m/f wheel, alloys, e/windows, mirrors, folding seats £7499

Mercedes B200 SE Auto, 2006/56, Met Silver, 9000 mls only, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, cruise control £9999

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MOTORS

Commercial Vehicles	Motors Services	Fiat	Ford	Honda	Mazda	Peugeot	Rover	Toyota
CITROEN BERLINGO VAN  2009 1560cc HDI LEZ Compliant, White, 39,000 Low Mileage, Boarded Out Stunning Condition 07710 247062 01295 256014 £4,250 ovno [T]	Motoring Services  Darren's Recovery Moving Cars & Vans from A to B Also Wanted Runners & Mot Failures Good Prices Also Scrapped Taken away FREE 07796 205673	FIAT MAREA SX ESTATE 1600cc, 83,000 miles, 8 months MOT, very good condition Tel: 07999 465542 £650 ono	FORD PUMA 1.7i 16V 3dr, 2001, Pacific Green, 1679Cc Engine, Petrol, Manual, Airbag, Alarm, ABS, E/W, PAS, RC/L, alloys, 74500 miles, Tax Aug, Mot End May 01865 872723 £999 ovno	HONDA CIVIC ES AUTO Red, 1999, taxed, MOT, excellent condition, leather luxury, exceptionally low mileage 43,000 Tel: 01793 782296 £1395	MAZDA 3 1.6 TS2 5dr, 2007, 57,000 miles, FSH, Black, 1598Cc Engine, Petrol, Manual, Airbag, Alarm, ABS, CD, E/M, E/W, PAS, RC/L, Mot and tax Jan 13, M 07732620988 Tel 01844339522 £4,700 ono	PEUGEOT 306 1.9 Diesel, White, 3 door, R reg, MOT end Aug 2012, 104,000 miles, very economical and reliable car, good condition for year. Tel: 07583 671693 £650 ono	ROVER CITY SELECT 2004, blue, 1398Cc., Petrol, Manual, Tax, MOT, FSH, A/C, Airbag, Alarm, C/L, E/W, PAS, R/Casette, Sold as Seen. £700 01869 253067	TOYOTA HARRIER  T reg (Lexus RX) 4wd auto, A/C, ESR, CD stacker, new battery, T-T til Oct, green, v low miles 59,000 01380 830448 £1,450
Motors Wanted	Audi	Ford	RENAULT CLIO	HONDA CIVIC 2.0 VTEC TYPE R	Mercedes	PEUGEOT 206 1.1	ROVER 75	TOYOTA COROLLA
CASH WAITING FOR CARS/VANS & MOTORHOMES with or without MOT'S £07963 777762	AUDI A6 ADVANT LIMITED EDITION  1.9 TDI Diesel 03, 5 dr, Metallic Silver with black leather interior, Sat Nav, Multi cd, a/c, MOT till Aug, tax end May, 1 owner, service history. Excellent condition. Genuine reason to sell 078346 02530 £3,550	FORD FIESTA  1999, low MILEAGE 65k, encore blue, 12 months MOT & tax, cheap run around, manual, petrol, CD, (PAS) 07885 757722 £850 ono	FORD FOCUS 1.8 DIESEL, CLTDDI  2001, manual, red, five door, tax/mot, 143,000 miles, good cond. Tel: 01793 783730 £950.	HONDA CIVIC SE AUTO 2004, only 26,000 miles, one owner, metallic silver, just serviced, full MOT, FSH Tel: 01793 723005 £4200	MERCEDES C CLASS 1998, 1799Cc, Petrol, Automatic, C180 elegance, 4 Dr, Silver, Mot Aug 2012, immac condition 01225 769362 £8750	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 16V  X reg 2000, 72000 miles, s/history, 10 months MOT, taxed until 31/08, silver, glass sunroof 01793 790673 or 07860 753037 £995	TOYOTA COROLLA S Reg, 90000m, 1300Cc, GLS, Petrol, 12 mnths MOT 07835 841764 Devizes area £575 ono	
Caravans & Motorhomes	SWIFT DUETTE 2 Berth	Chevrolet	FORD FOCUS GHIA ESTATE TDI  White, 2000, V Reg, taxed / mot, service history. 150,000 miles, vgc throughout Tel: 0798878056 £895.ono.	JAGUAR X-TYPE  Grey, 2006, 2198Cc, Turbo Diesel, Manual Gearbox, Alarm, Alloys, CD, C/RL, Full Service History, Good Condition, Excellent Runner, MOT till May 12. 07590 998907 £5,250	MORRIS MINOR TRAVELLER  Restored 1960 Morris Minor Traveller in excellent condition for age Tax Exempt. MOT until August 2012 Needs a good home 01491 651579 £3,500	Renault	Skoda	TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 AUTO
SWIFT DUETTE 2 BERTH End Bathroom, Separate Shower, Ex Condition Throughout, Complete History, 10640miles, One Owner Non Smoker, Awning, Cover & Extras 01295 263585 £2,000	CHEVROLET SPARK  2010, white, 1.0cc, 65 mpg, £30 to tax for 12 months, safe green car, in excellent condition, one year old 01869 327244 £5500	FORD KA LUXURY 2002  Panther Black Metallic, 1299CC Leather Seats, Air Con, Power Steering, CD Player, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Low Mileage, New Mot, Stunning Condition 07710 247062 01295 256014 £1,695 ovno [T]	FORD FOCUS 1.8 DIESEL, CLTDDI  2001, manual, red, five door, tax/mot, 143,000 miles, good cond. Tel: 01793 783730 £950.	Morris Minor	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 16V  2003 Taxed & Motd, 52450 miles, A/c, Foglights, Rain Sensor, Sunroof, Elec Windows, Service History, Excellent Condition 01295 256686 07940 341388 £2,600 ono	Skoda Fabia	Vauxhall	
Accs Spares & Repairs	Citroen	CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi 16V SX 5dr, 53 reg, Silver, Diesel, Manual, A/C, Airbag, Alarm, ABS, CD, E/M, E/W, PAS, RC/L, 7 seater, FSH, Mot Nov 12, Tax June 12, 78,000m, ex cond 077326 20988 01844 339522 £2950	FORD FOCUS 2000 Green, 1.8, Engine, Diesel, Manual, A/C, Airbag, Alarm, CD, C/L, E/W, PAS, RC/L, Tax till end of March and Mot June 2012. Good reliable runner. 07748749448 £795	Jaguar	MORRIS MINOR TRAVELLER  2003 Taxed & Motd, 52450 miles, A/c, Foglights, Rain Sensor, Sunroof, Elec Windows, Service History, Excellent Condition 01295 256686 07940 341388 £2,600 ono	VAUXHALL CORSA ENVOY 1999, 12v, 1000cc, 46,000 miles, blue, MOT until June, 6 months tax, service history Tel: 07905 545110 £750		
Miscellaneous	Citroen	YOUR CAR WILL BE SEEN BY OVER 144,871 Local readers	Nissan	NISSAN MICRA S 998cc. X Reg, Blue, 3 Door, Petrol, Man 63,000 Miles. 1 Jan 2013, Tax June 2012. Good cond. Eves. No canvassers.	Rover 600	SELL YOUR CAR From as little as £9.99 Terms and conditions apply (other packages available)		
BMW car mats. Set of 4. As new £45.00 ono 01295 259811 BMW 16" wheel trims. Set of 4. Unwanted gift £35.00 ono 01295 259811	Tyres & Exhaust 2X INF 165 / 70 x tyres. Less than half worn. £10.00 each 07963 777762	2.0 HDi 16V SX 5dr, 53 reg, Silver, Diesel, Manual, A/C, Airbag, Alarm, ABS, CD, E/M, E/W, PAS, RC/L, 7 seater, FSH, Mot Nov 12, Tax June 12, 78,000m, ex cond 077326 20988 01844 339522 £2950	2.0 HDi 16V SX 5dr, 53 reg, Silver, Diesel, Manual, A/C, Airbag, Alarm, CD, C/L, E/W, PAS, RC/L, Tax till end of March and Mot June 2012. Good reliable runner. 07748749448 £795	SOLD	ROVER 600	SELL YOUR CAR From as little as £9.99 Terms and conditions apply (other packages available)		
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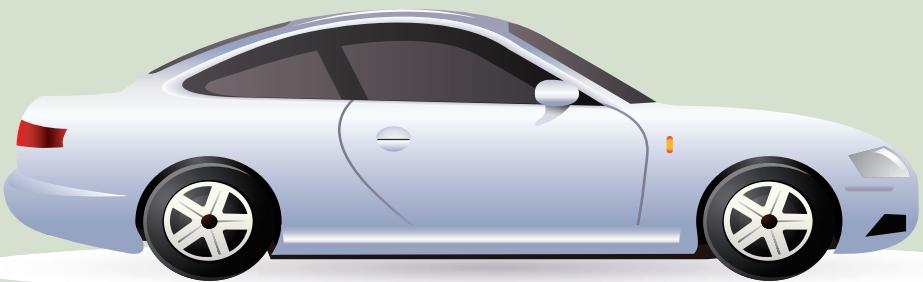
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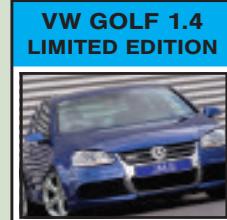
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